

MOTHER LOVE.

A mother sat holding a child in her arms. And tossing to it and fro. The child was soothed and cooed and played. While she murmured so soft and low—“Oh, how I love you, darling! The world is full of love and tenderness. Sure no mortal was loved so before.” “I’m sure that I love you, darling,” she said. “And I’m sure that you’re the prettiest baby fair in a woman grown.” “With such a hand in her arms, to-day I will be home, winner of the day.” “The child laughs and jumps as playfully as the mother. And the mother hugs it closer still. “Surely my mother never loved me so.” “Time passes fast and the baby that she holds has grown to woman’s estate.” “And I’m leaving over the cradle child. While she thinks of the child before.” “This child loves his mother well.” “Given such love as for her, she could tell me. And she’s thinking now as she looks at her.” “If mother had been here, she would have known better.” “Each mother that holds in her arms a child like this, has given up a child of her own.” “With such much fervor and zest! Oh, a mother’s desire that can equal it!” “The child will last as long and keep as strong as he be.”

Edison Uncomparable.

Genius is not always appreciated in every day life, and the inventor, scholar, or scientist is often unwelcome among his associates.

This was brought to my attention the other day while discussing the wonderful success of Edison, with a well-known telegrapher. Said he: “I used to work with Tom, and while he was a good operator he was not popular with us.” If any of the men wanted a companion to go down the street with or take a walk, Tom would never be asked. The boys didn’t take him. Perhaps if we had, some of us would not have to be pounding by a key for small wages to-day, but you can’t always tell.”

Are There Not Modern Balances?

(All the Year Round.)

When the caricaturist was engaged in illustrating Balzac’s novels he came upon difficult and involved passages, so abstruse that he took it to the author with the humble remark, “I don’t exactly catch the sense of this.”

“Let’s see it,” said the novelist. “Oh, there’s no meaning to it at all! That’s why I put it in.”

“Exactly, you see, for the average reader all that is clear seems crazy; and from time to time I didn’t give him a complicated and empty sentence, he would think that he knew as much as I did.”

Consequently, every now and then I tip him something heart-breaking, and he puzzles over it, and reads it, and takes his head between his hands and glares at it; and then, when he can make neither head nor tail of it, he is perfectly happy, and says, “Great man, that Balzac; he knows more than I do.”

A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO.

(London Exchange.)

It was on the evening of Monday, the 28th of July, in the year 1712, that two middle-aged men came out of Wills’ coffee-house, and slowly walked through the close lanes that led to the heart of the city. As they passed along they encountered a bevy of news-vendors, known then as hawkers of “Mercuries” who were brawling at the top of their lungs. “Here you have the last number of the Observer—the last number, no other number will ever be published, on account of the stamp.” “Here you have the Flying Post, which will go on in spite of the stamp.” “Here you have the Spectator, this day’s Spectator, all writ by the greatest wits of the age.”

The more brisk of the two friends switched his companion’s arm and whispered, “That’s at any rate a comfort, Addison.”

“True fame, Steele,” was the reply. Their onward course was to a small printing-office in Little Britain. They climbed the narrow staircase, and were in a close and dingy room, with two printing-presses, and working spaces for four compositors. A grave man was reading at a desk, and he bowed reverently to the gallants in face and ruffles, who thus honored him by a visit to his dark den of letters.

“Why, Mr. Buckley,” said Steele, “your narrow passage and close rooms remind me of the printing of Ben Jonson, who kept his press in a hollow tree. We are come to talk with you about this villainous stamp; a red stamp, they tell me it is, not black, like its father, Lillie is obstinate, and says our Penny Spectator must be raised to twopence and if so, where are our customers to come from?”

“I’m for stopping,” interposed Addison.

“Not so, sir; not so, I pray,” ejaculated the frightened printer, “there isn’t such a paper-in-town, sir. Go into the houses of the first of the quality, not a coffee-house without it. Not like your Post boys and Post, which are ready by shopkeepers and handicrafts.”

“I should like to be ready by shopkeepers and handicrafts,” said Steele.

“Oh, dear no, sir; quite impossible, sir. They must have coarse food—ghosts and murders. Delicate like Mr. Addison’s, fine morality like Mr. Steele’s are for the town, sir, not the populace.”

“A nice distinction, truly,” cried Addison; “audience fit, though few.”

“Few, sir, why, we print three thousand, and we shall print as many when the stamp doubles our price. Our customers will never stand upon a shifting scale; and besides those who support the government will rejoice in the opportunity of paying the tax, I shouldn’t wonder if the stamp doubled our sale.”

“Very sanguine, Mr. Buckley.”

“Sanguine, sir? Who wouldn’t be sanguine, when rates like you consider to write for the town?” There is Dr. Swift, too, I hear, has been writing peony paper after many paper. “A fine hand gentleman. Are we to go back to our old ignorant days because of a red stamp? We must go on improving.”

Look at my printing-office, and see if we are not improved. Way, sir. Roger L’Estrange, when he set up the intelligence, fifty years ago, gave notice that he would publish his one book a week, “to be published every Thursday night, and finished upon the Tuesday night, leaving Wednesday entire for the printing it off.” And now I, gentlemen, can, without boasting, print, and spectate

off every day, and not even want the copy more than three days before publication. Think of that, gentlemen, a halfsheet every day. A hundred years hence nobody will believe it.”

In Spain there are already in course of construction large steel and iron works, which will have the advantage of being near the famous hematite ore of the Bubos Mountains. A Sheffield company is arranging with a local engineering establishment for a supply of plant capable of producing the heaviest possible ordnance. The plant, it is stated, will cost at least \$200,000, and it will be necessary to raise additional capital for the purpose.

The Pilgrim Fathers.

New England is a phrase that ought to be allowed to drop decently out of geography.

It has not political sense, and if you come to science New England is geologically older than the old country, and as to the Pilgrim Fathers one is always reminded of the very proper remark of the New York girl, She said, “We are all the time hearing about those horrid old Pilgrim Fathers and their sufferings and religious heroism.” Even Mrs. Hemans had to write about them. I should like to know why there is no consideration for the pilgrim mothers—they had to stand all the hardships the fathers did, and the fathers into the bargain!”

“I wonder,” said Addison, “what the people would read a hundred years hence, if they had the ability? They must have books especially suited to their capacities. They would read your Vision of Mirza, and know something about your Sir Roger de Coverley.”

“Come, come, Diego, don’t be sarcastic. I thought I was pitching my key low enough to suit your tops, and our caskets, and our coffee longers, but to be belied by the rabble! A pinch of snuff, if you please.”

“I could see the day,” said Steele, “when we had a nation of readers, and books could circulate rapidly through the whole country. I would leave the town to mend its follies as best it might, and set up for a teacher of the people. We would make your press do ten times its present work then, Mr. Buckley.”

“Ah, sir, great men like you always have their dreams! I once knew a clever man who fancied the mail would

have time to stop at our tops, and our caskets, and our coffee longers, enough to stock an apothecary’s shop, we had to stand all the hardships the fathers did, and the fathers into the bargain!”

“Well, you ride up here with me and I’ll do it for \$2.”

Nay, nay, gentle Jehu, you are too late. We have now enjoyed a pleasant ride. We will go into the hospitable door of the castle, where food and cheering drinks await us.”

Then the whole party, not having moved an inch from the spot, alighted, and with many expressions of delight at their pleasant drive, and comments upon the charming scenery they had passed, disappeared through the storm doors in to the brilliantly lighted interior.

One, a well known bareback and four-

horse rider, while in the act of putting on a pair of elastic knee-caps, to strengthen his knees, explained that the most serious strains resulting from riding and tumbling came upon the kidneys, which were often badly strained. The breast was also strained at times, though not so frequently.

Such trivial matters as shoulder and ankle sprains are continually occurring, and worthy of notice. Heaps of poultice plasters and quantities of glycerine, enough to stock an apothecary’s shop, were used by a circus company in a single season.

Two planks. Now, as we climb this mountain in front, see in the near distance the lonely cabin of the original George Washington muse in this township. Mark her toothless eyes and eyeless teeth, and as we glide along, catch a glimpse of the white-coated Miller through the swinging door, chucking poker dice with the blacksmith for keeps.”

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